

be a good way to leave small-town Indiana, see the world, and get paid to do it," said Reece. Reece's six-year tour in the Marine Corps took him all over the globe, including a stay in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. Reece was awarded a Combat Action Ribbon for his service as a tank gunner during Desert Storm.

"It was almost surreal," said Reece, describing the battle scenes during the ground war. "The sky was just black from all oil-well fire smoke... you could see the flames from burned-out Iraqi tanks, and individual Iraqi soldiers with white handkerchiefs soldiers were trying to surrender to our tanks while our column kept rolling past them."

Reece spoke fondly of his Marine Corps memories, but said he was ready to move on when his time in service was up.

Reece left the Marine Corps in 1993, and like many other American war veterans during the last century, used his well-earned GI Bill money to help pay for college. Reece attended Indiana University in Bloomington where he studied history. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1997, and used his military experiences to excel as a student.

"I definitely grew up fast in the Marine Corps, discipline-wise," said Reece. "I learned how to set objectives and goals and how to go about achieving them."

Reece left I.U. armed with an education instead of the M-16 he carried as a Marine, and set out to make his mark in the business world after having proved himself on the battlefield.

"I had done the military thing, I put in my four years of college... and I wanted to be a businessman and spend a few years working in the corporate world," said Reece.

After five years of working for



Sgt. David Reece, USAR, training in Fort Lewis, Wash.

ADT Home Security and American Honda, Reece felt a desire to do something more; something was missing from his life. He longed for the esprit de corps that only the military could provide, he said. He was looking for something more in life than the almighty dollar, and that was fulfillment. In April 2001, Reece enlisted in the Army Reserve with the 100th Division. "I was looking for what I wasn't finding in the civilian world," said Reece. "There wasn't camaraderie, that 'Band of Brothers' type mentality that you can only find in the military." Reece's decision to enlist in the 100th Division not only allowed him to return to the military lifestyle and camaraderie he longed for, but also gave him the chance to climb aboard the beloved M-1A1 Abrams tanks that he successfully fought in during Desert Storm.

"I wanted to get back in tanks. The closest tank unit was in Madisonville, Ky. I decided to make the four and a half-hour drive every month, that's how much I wanted to do it," said Reece. "It's incredibly intimidating to see those huge thing

go rolling toward the front line," said Reece, expressing awe for the firepower of America's armor corps.

Reece's life transformation, however, did not stop with the 100th Division. As a young American in the post-September 11 world, Reece joined other Americans who had the desire to do something rewarding with their lives. Reece did this not only for reasons of self-fulfillment, but in an effort make a difference in people's lives like the many heroes of the September 11 tragedy did. He decided to abandon his climb up the corporate ladder and attempted to join the ranks of America's professional public safety personnel.

"I have a brother that's a police officer in Georgia, and he told me that it was like being in a civilian military... that it's the same type of mentality where people look out for each other, and will put others before themselves."

After September 11 Reece, 34, left corporate America and began the hiring process with the Indianapolis Police Department, where he was hired in July 2002. He graduated from the Indianapolis Police Department's 24-week long training academy on Jan. 3, and is currently in field training. Reece is scheduled to finish field training at the end of May, and will be a patrol officer on the streets of Indianapolis. His transition from young professional to soldier and police officer is one that has helped Reece to fulfill his goals, and is also one that makes him beam.

"There's no place I'd rather be right now than with IPD working on the home front to help keep the public safe," said Reece.

Reece, who married his wife,

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